

To: Scott Foss[sfoss@blm.gov]
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From: Polly, P. David
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Dear Scott,

Based on Secretary Zinke's statements to the press today, he clearly ignored SVP's comments about the scientific importance of the fossil bearing units in Bears Ears National Monument when he formulated his recommendation to the President.

Zinke is quoted in the Washington Post as saying, "If you look at the Bears Ears as a whole, there's a lot more drop-dead gorgeous land than there are historic, prehistoric objects. These items and objects can be identified, segregated and reasonably separated."

As we documented in our comments (and as demonstrated by confidential DOI data), virtually the entire area of Bears Ears protects important vertebrate fossil localities.

Can you recommend a process by which DOI's statement that there is more land than there are prehistoric objects be corrected?

With best wishes,
David

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